

**Q&As from Community-Based Family Support for Immigrant, Refugee,
and Native American Elementary Students
RFI Information Session
May 2, 2012**

GENERAL

Q: On Page 2, in the Outcomes section, the second and third bullets are very similar; are they intended to be the same?

A: The third bullet should read:

- 3rd-5th grade students moving from Level 1 to Level 2 or higher on one or more grade-level state tests (math and/or reading). Please see Addendum #2.

Q: Transportation is an access barrier for many students. Can Levy funds be used to transport students to a satellite location?

A: Yes. Organizations should make note of this in the budget, if applicable.

Q: How much total funding is being allocated for this RFI?

A: \$400,000 a year for the duration of the Levy. Organizations can apply for up to \$150,000 a year.

Q: If an organization receives \$150,000 in funding, does that funding automatically continue each year for the duration of the Levy?

A: Once an organization receives funding, it will continue to receive funding for the duration of the Levy as long as it continues to meet its outcomes. Funded organizations will still need to submit a plan and set new targets each year but will not have to compete for funds with other organizations.

Q: Will there be required meetings to attend for organizations funded by the Levy?

A: That has not been decided yet.

Q: How far can an organization go in terms of addressing the needs of families compared to simply meeting academic outcomes for students?

A: The families that are supported by Levy funds should be tied to a student that is in elementary school. Ultimately, an RFI submission will be evaluated on (and OFE will be monitoring) how likely the strategies will achieve the intended academic outcomes. There are, however, many factors that can influence a student's academic achievement. This RFI exists because OFE believes that there are barriers to a student's academic performance that can be addressed through providing family support.

Q: Can schools apply for this RFI?

A: No. This particular RFI is for community-based organizations only. Schools can partner with an organization applying for this particular RFI, but the community-based organization would be the lead entity for this RFI.

Q: The schools were provided a large amount of data as part of this process. Is there any way for community-based organizations to have access to that data?

A: OFE has a data packet available that provides data school by school. See attached link: http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/edlevy_report.htm#Data. We are limited by privacy requirements as to what and how much we can publish.

Q: How soon can organizations apply?

A: Organizations may submit their Community-Based Family Support for Immigrant, Refugee, and Native American Elementary Students RFI anytime before 4:30 p.m. on June 1, 2012.

Q: For purposes of this Levy, is there a way to differentiate between the Native Americans that grew up with a Native American identity and those students trying to discover their Native American identity?

A: Not specifically at this time, but OFE welcomes applications from community-based organizations that not only make this differentiation but also provide strategies tailored to specific sub-groups.

Q: Multiple programs often serve the same pool of Native American students for many years. Are there any incentives to use Levy funds to target Native American students not already being served and to ensure students who are served progress out of needing services?

A: This is a new program. Again, OFE welcomes applications from community-based organizations that not only identify sub-groups within populations but also target strategies accordingly.

Q: May parent groups providing weekend services apply for this RFI?

A: Yes, as long as they meet the requirements of the grant.

BUDGET/FUNDING

Q: In the budget portion, there is a section that suggests tutoring support be listed as non-personnel costs. If an organization offers its own support services, including tutoring, would that be included as a personnel cost or a non-personnel cost?

A: If the organization is providing the services itself, that item would be categorized as a personnel cost. If the organization is sub-contracting the service, then it should list it as such and include the name of that organization in the budget so evaluators can tie the budget item back to the narrative.

Q: Can an organization include program evaluation costs in the proposed budget?

A: Yes. Any self-assessments or other program evaluation costs should be included in the budget that is submitted. There is no stated cap on these costs.

Q: Can an organization use Levy funds to pay for space? If so, is there a maximum amount?

A: There is no prohibition on using Levy funds to pay for space.

Q: There is a minimum of \$50,000 for total budget listed on Page 18; is this correct?

A: No. There is no minimum request amount. Please see Addendum #2.

Q: Can organizations use Levy funds for professional development?

A: Yes.

PARTNERSHIPS

Q: If a community organization has become partners with a school, can they become partners or collaborators with additional schools?

A: Yes. Organizations should decide what schools they want to partner with and should include that information in their RFI.

Q: Can an organization choose to partner with another organization?

A: Yes.

Q: Can multiple organizations submit a joint application?

A: Yes, but each organization must address all of the questions raised in the RFI.

OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS/TARGETS/ASSESSMENTS

Q: What types of ELL assessments are acceptable?

A: When listing its results and previous success in the RFI submission, an organization must use at least one outcome or indicator from the list provided on Page 2, even if it is just attendance. If an organization is using other assessments or metrics, they should include those as well in their submission so evaluators understand the work that has been done. However, outcome and indicator targets an organization proposes to reach with Levy funds must be from the list on Page 2 because those are the metrics that OFE is able to track.

Q: Given that there are multiple MAP tests, which MAP results is OFE looking at?

A: OFE will be using MAP scores from the fall through spring.

Q: One of the outcomes for third graders is MSP but they are not tested until third grade. What is the baseline data that should be used?

A: The organization should use data from the prior third grade class and note if there are any reasons the performance would be drastically different.

Q: Are there guidelines for how often an organization should assess its outcomes?

A: Organizations should be monitoring students on a daily or weekly basis, but that can be as basic as attendance (not necessarily assessments). If the organization is monitoring students at a different frequency, it should state its reasoning for doing so.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Q: How do you define immigrants and refugees – by the student or the family?

A: Guidance is provided on Pages 2 and 3 in the section titled, “Defining Immigrant, Refugee and Native American.”

Q: Will OFE recognize Native American tribes that are not federally recognized?

A: Yes.

Q: Are organizations targeting students that schools identify as needing intervention or are they maintaining the achievement of immigrant students who are performing well academically?

A: As mentioned in the RFI documents, focus students are those who are underperforming academically (see Page 2 for listing of focus students). Organizations must explain in their RFI how they will identify students who meet the risk factors listed.

Q: Is any documentation required to prove that the students served meet the requirements listed in the RFI?

A: No, not at this time. OFE assumes that organizations will abide by the definitions and requirements listed.

Q: There are many first-generation students from immigrant and/or refugee families who are struggling academically and otherwise. Is there room in this RFI to provide support for these first generation students?

A: Yes.

Q: Can organizations serve Native American students who have come to the district from other states with Levy funds?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the age limit for students served by this RFI?

A: Funds from this RFI must be used for focus students who are in elementary school.